

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 261130Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5983

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6633

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: USG-DRV CONTACT IN VIENTIANE

1. AT FRENCH EMBASSY RECEPTION, SEPTEMBER 25, DCM HAD 20-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE CHARGE NGUYEN GIAP. LATTER INQUIRED WHY DCM HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP ON EARLIER SUGGESTION OF PERIODIC DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN TWO EMBASSIES IN ORDER TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN LAOS (VIENTIANE 6355). GIAP THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MAINTAIN SUCH A DIALOGUE.

2. DRV CHARGE THEN INITIATED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION REGARDING IMMEDIATE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING SOUVANNA IN FORMING COALITION GOVERNMENT. GIAP MENTIONED OPPOSITION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES TO SOUVANNA'S IDEA OF REQUESTING SPECIAL POWER FROM ASSEMBLY TO RE-SHUFFLE CABINET AND GIAP WONDERED HOW SOUVANNA COULD OVERCOME THIS DIFFICULTY (REPORTED VIENTIANE 6596). DCM REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT AFTER DEPUTIES HAD VOICED THEIR DISCONTNET OVER CERTAIN ASPECTS OF PROTOCOL AND HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT MOST OF THEM WOULD HAVE JOBS, SOME FORMULA WOULD BE FOUND ENABLING SOUVANNA TO FORM COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LINE WITH KING'S INSTRUCTION THAT SOLUTION MUST RESPECT LAO CONSITUTIONAL PROCEDURE.

3. DCM STRESSED, AS HE HAD AT EARLIER OCCASION, THAT  
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ALL PARTIES WHICH HAD BEEN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LAO CONFLICT MUST RESPECT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAO ACCORDS TO PERMIT TWO LAO PARTIES TO WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS WITHIN FRAMEWORK THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED.

DCM REITERATED USG INTENTION TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS ON LAOS AND EMPHASIZED THAT WE EXPECTED ALL OTHER PARTIES TO DO LIKEWISE. SINCE DCM HAD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE XX OF PARIS AGREEMENT, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO FOREIGN TROOP WITHDRAWAL.

4. DCM THEN QUERIED DRV CHARGE WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT RECENT MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR II WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS BY FAR SPOKESMAN AND REPORTED BY PRESS. DRV CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOTED FAR FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THESE INCIDENTS, THAT HE CONSIDERED THEM TO BE FAR-INITIATED AND ABOVE ALL THAT IN HIS OPINION THIS CONSTITUTED EFFORT BY RIGHTISTS TO "POISON" ATMOSPHERE IN ORDER TO SABOTAGE PROTOCOL.

5. BEFORE CONCLUDING CONVERSATION, DRV CHARGE VOLUNTEERED THAT DRV AMBASSADOR LE VAN HIEN WOULD RETURN TO VIENTIANE "JUST BEFORE FORMATION OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT" SO THAT HE WOULD BE ON HAND FOR INVESTITURE CEREMONY. IN THIS CONNECTION HE CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM DRV PRESIDENT TO KING OF LAOS AS EVIDENCE OF DRV SUPPORT FOR THE PROTOCOL (VIENTIANE 6599).

6. COMMENT: DURING DCM'S CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO RECEIVE CLEAR INDICATION WHAT CONTACT, IF ANY, THIS EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE WITH NORTH VIENTNAMESE MISSION AS WE ENTER NEW ERA IN LAOS. WHITEHOUSE

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